

UMSexualETHICS

Raising
awareness,
Preventing
sexual misconduct,
Promoting
healthy boundaries,
Bringing about
**justice and
healing**

The UMC believes sexual misconduct within ministerial relationships represents an exploitation of power and is a betrayal of sacred trust. The UMC defines sexual misconduct as a continuum of behaviors that includes sexual harassment which is the creation of a hostile or abusive working environment resulting from discrimination on the basis of gender.

Book of Resolutions ¶2044



The General Commission on
the Status and Role of Women
The United Methodist Church

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Chicago, IL 60602

www.umsexualethics.org
1-800-523-8390

Toll-free, confidential



You May Have Experienced Sexual Misconduct If:

- » An incident with a ministerial leader makes you feel uncomfortable or confused
- » You receive inappropriate personal gifts from a ministerial leader
- » Your counseling session with a ministerial leader focuses on their needs and issues, especially details of their intimate relationships
- » A ministerial leader invites you out for intimate, social occasions
- » A ministerial leader touches you in a confusing, uncomfortable, or upsetting way
- » A ministerial leader sends you emails, instant, and/or text messages with sexual overtures
- » A ministerial leader uses theological rationale for questionable conduct

If You Believe You Have Experienced Sexual Misconduct:

- » Pay attention to, and trust your feelings during and after the situation
- » Be direct and tell him/her to STOP the behavior
- » Be safe and leave the situation
- » Remember, you are not to blame
- » Document incidents by keeping and saving a record of dates, times, places, and witnesses of incidents
- » Save emails, letters, cards, voicemail messages, text messages, receipts, or notes
- » Share your feelings of hurt, betrayal, confusion, anxiety, or fear with someone you trust
- » Remember you are not the only person to whom this has happened

Reporting Sexual Misconduct of a Person in Ministerial Leadership:

- » The UMC encourages you to file a complaint if you believe a sexual boundary is violated
- » Submit the complaint in writing, signed and dated, to your Bishop or District Superintendent
- » You may also contact GCSRW's confidential, toll-free number 1-800-523-8390 for support
- » For more information, visit www.gcsr.org or www.umsexualethics.org